

REMARKS

In the Drawings:

The attached sheets of formal drawings replace the drawing sheets 1 and 2 of the as-filed application that include original FIGs. 1, 3, and 4. Each of FIGs. 1, 3, and 4 have been amended to show a workpiece (100) on each of the respective surface layers of the tools shown in the figures. The workpiece was fully described in the as-filed specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added in amended FIGs. 1, 3, and 4. Applicants have attached replacement sheets 1 and 2 (showing amended FIGs. 1, 3, and 4) and annotated sheets showing the changes to FIGs. 1, 3, and 4 to this amendment.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application and are currently finally rejected by the Examiner. With respect to the amendments, support can be found throughout the specification and the drawings. The amendments have been made to further clarify the structure of the work support surface and to put the claims in condition for allowance and/or to put the claims in better condition for appeal. No new search is required because the additional limitations should have been encompassed by the previous search. In view of the following amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 4,336,831 to Mroczkowski. The Applicants respectfully traverse. Mroczkowski does not disclose all of the limitations of the amended claims. Specifically, Mroczkowski does not disclose that an exposed surface of a workpiece support surface is formed with a low friction surface that allows a workpiece placed on the exposed surface to be freely moved relative to the exposed surface when the workpiece contacts the cutting element. In contrast, Mroczkowski discloses a table saw with a plate (46) that moves with respect to the table (8) surface as aided by a low-friction covering applied to either the underside of the plate or the table surface. See Col. 8, ll. 14-20.

Mroczkowski discloses the use of a rough covering (49) on the exposed surface of the plate, which is the surface that the workpiece rests on. Therefore, Mroczkowski does not disclose a workpiece that can be freely moved relative to the exposed surface when contacting the cutting element. Because Mroczkowski does not disclose, or suggest, all of the limitations of amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

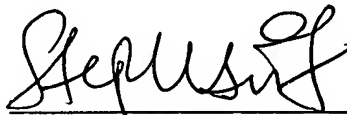
Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Prior Art of Record in view of Mroczkowski. The Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejections to these claims. The combination of the Prior Art of Record and Mroczkowski does not disclose all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 10, 13, and 16. Specifically, neither the Prior Art of Record nor Mroczkowski disclose that an exposed surface of a workpiece support surface is formed with a low friction surface to allow a workpiece to be freely moved relative to the exposed surface when the workpiece contacts the cutting element. As discussed above, while Mroczkowski discloses the use of a low friction covering on either the table (8) surface or the underside of plate (46) that allows for easy movement of the plate with respect to the table, Mroczkowski discloses that the exposed surface of the plate, which is the member that the workpiece contacts when being used in conjunction with the power tool, is formed with a rough surface (49). Therefore, Mroczkowski not only does not disclose the claimed limitation discussed above, but it actually teaches away from the claimed feature because the rough surface (49) is dramatically different from the claimed plastic laminate on the exposed surface of the workpiece support surface, and the rough surface will not allow a workpiece to be freely moved along the exposed surface when the workpiece contacts the cutting element. In the office action, the Examiner stated that the other embodiments of Mroczkowski disclosed exposed tops. Although this is true, none of the other embodiments disclose, or suggest, the use of a low friction surface on the table top. Because neither of the Prior Art of Record or Mroczkowski discloses all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 10, 13, and 16, Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-18 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants at (312) 222-8124 if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 13, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen C. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

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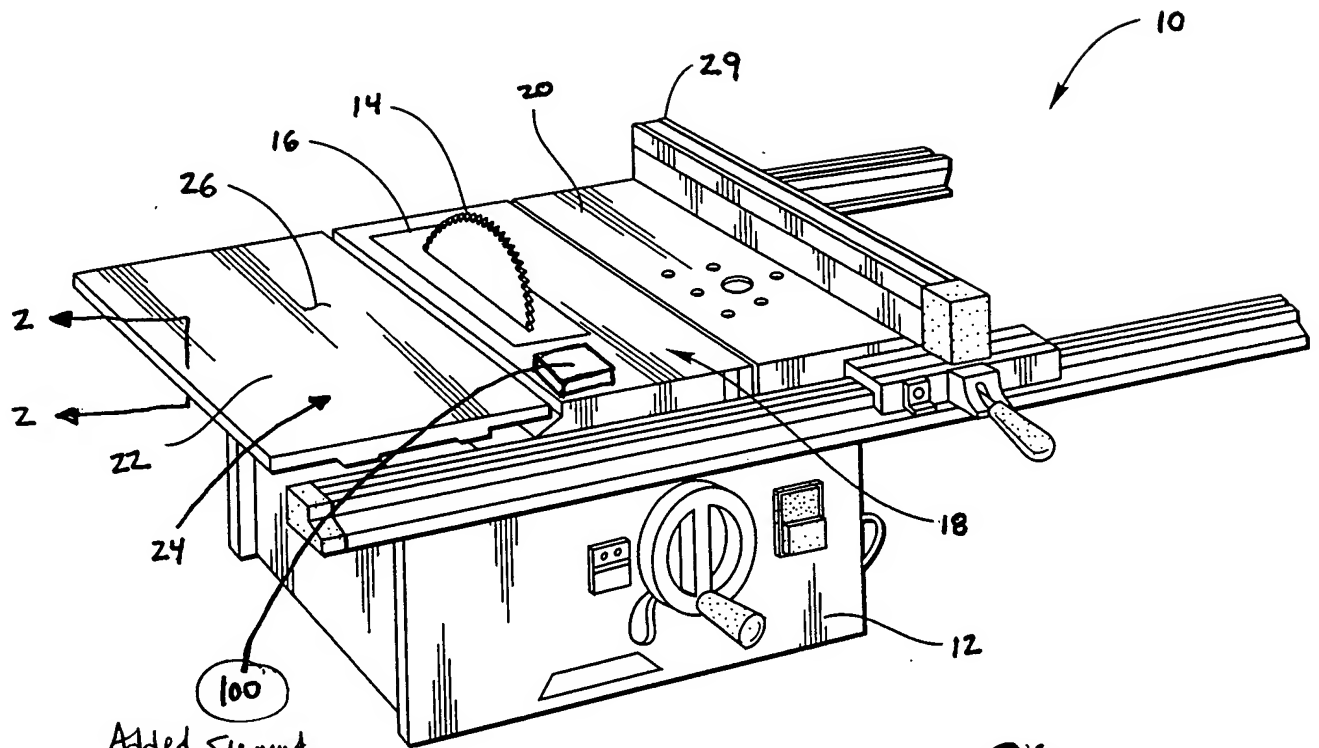
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Please amend this application as follows:

In the Drawings:

The attached sheets 1 and 2 of formal drawings replace the drawing sheets corresponding to original Figs. 1-4. Figs. 1, 3, and 4 have been amended to show a workpiece positioned on a surface of each tool shown in FIGs. 1, 3, and 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



Added Element
Number 100 and added
a workpiece

Fig. 1

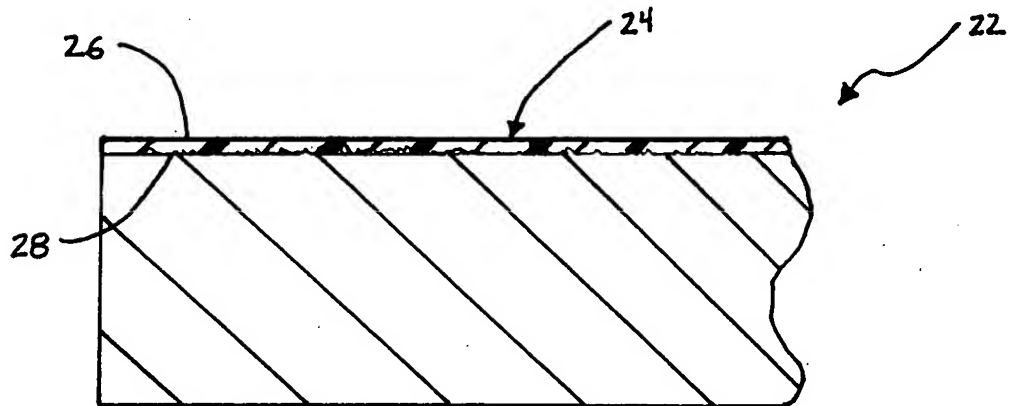
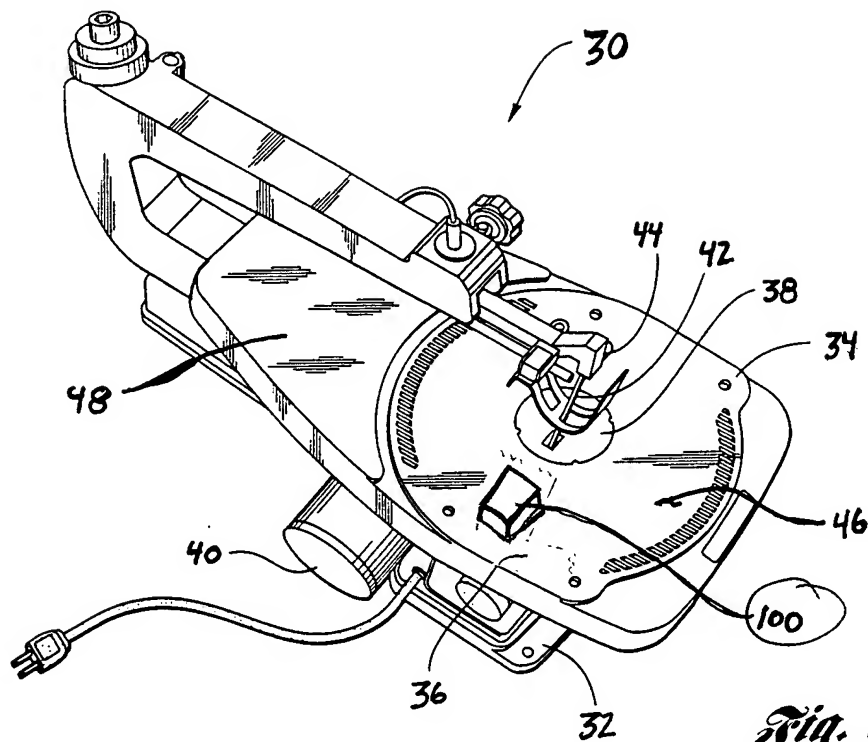
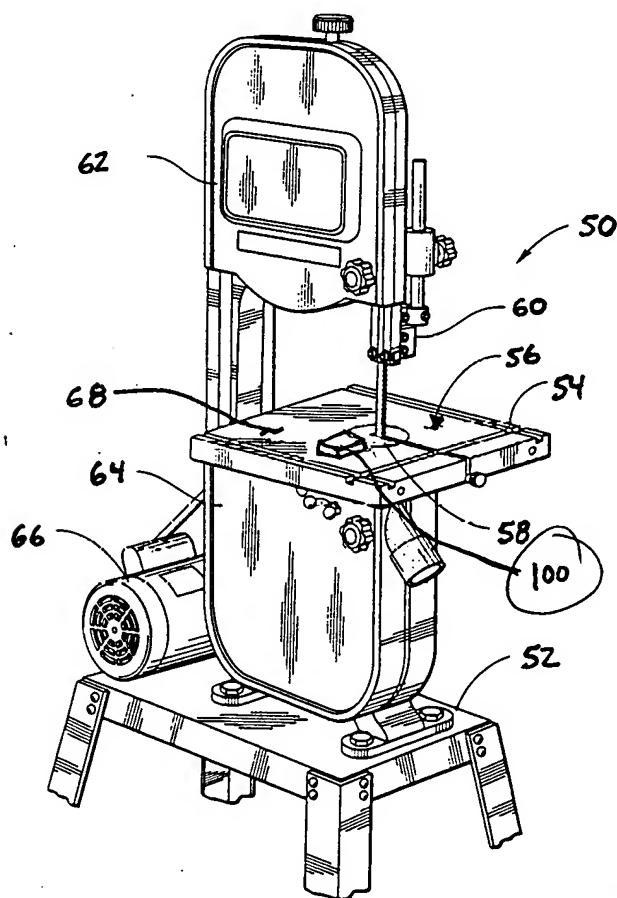


Fig. 2



Added element
100 and added
a workpiece

Fig. 3



Added element
100 and added a
workpiece

Fig. 4